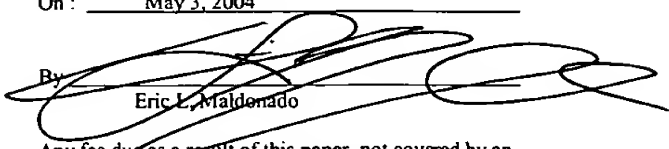




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Attorney Docket No. SCEW 18.968 (100809-16279)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ken KUTARAGI, et al.
Serial No.: 09/942,978
Filed: August 30, 2001
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM...
Examiner:
Art Unit: 2651
Con. No.:

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May 3, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated February 17, 2004 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).



Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, so no fee is due.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

(Tel) 212-940-8800

(Fax) 212-940-8986

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14498 TO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/942,978

Filing Date : August 30, 2001

First Named Inventor: K. KUTARAGI

Group Art Unit : 2651

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCEW 18.968

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | Kind Code if known ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| | | 11-259574 | JP | NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH CORP <NTT> | 09/24/1999 | |
| | | 2000-036781 | JP | SONY CORP | 02/02/2000 | Corresponds to EP Patent No. 0 975 111 |
| | | 0 975 111 | EP | SONY CORPORATION | 01/26/2000 | |
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